

U.S. and Russia Arranging An Exchange of Educators

By BESS FURMAN

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 13—The United States Government and the Soviet Union have reached tentative agreement for an interchange of education specialists. Marion B.

Folsom revealed today that such an interchange would soon be under way by saying that he was hopeful that the director of the Office of Education's International Division could visit the Soviet Union to arrange the interchange. The director is Oliver J. Caldwell.

Mr. Folsom, the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, made his disclosure in a letter to Senator J. William Fulbright, Arkansas Democrat and author of the Educational Interchange Act.

It was learned elsewhere than an interchange of eight education leaders from each country already has been arranged, and that Dr. Caldwell's mission in Russia would be to plan the tours of the Americans.

Simultaneously, it was learned that the exchange of educators was only a small part of a sweeping cultural interchange program expected to be started soon.

Only two days ago Premier Nikolai A. Bulganin of the Soviet Union appealed in a letter to President Eisenhower for an extension of "scientific, cultural and sports contacts to the utmost."

It is understood that the negotiations for cultural interchange started before the Hungarian revolution in October, 1956, lagged, but took on new life in recent weeks. Such negotiations are conducted for this Government by the East-West desk of the State Department and for the Soviet Government by Ambassador Georgi N. Zoroubin.

One object of the interchange of education experts would be a continuing comparison of the Soviet system with the American. For this Secretary Folsom is seeking increased applications to strengthen Com-

parative Education staff of the Office of Education.

Mr. Folsom's letter replied to one from Senator Fulbright.

The Senator had asked for an explanation of charges that facts had been suppressed in the Government's recent report on "Education in the U. S. S. R." The charges were made by Mrs. Eleanor M. Lowman, author of a first draft of the report.

Mr. Folsom denied that the report had been slanted. He said that changes had been made in the report because the first draft had been considered "below Office of Education standards for objective and scholarly publication."

Was Report Denied

Mr. Folsom also stated that the Office of Education had been hampered by lack of first-hand knowledge of the Soviet Union. He said that the Russian report, like other studies of Soviet education, was of necessity based upon a variety of official and secondary sources of information.

He said he believed that the proposed interchange program "is the most constructive first step we can take to improve our knowledge of Soviet education."

The Secretary took issue with the Senator on a charge that Administration statements had tended to "deprecate" Soviet education achievements, and thus contributed to complacency.

"This Administration has made repeated efforts to strengthen this nation's school systems, and its officials have pointed out the importance of education in forestalling Soviet attempts at world domination," Mr. Folsom said.

New Public Interest Noted

"Public responsiveness to such warnings has, of course, been greatly increased by the launching of the Soviet earth satellites. It is hoped that out of this awareness the American people and the Congress will seek, in the national interest, to compose those differences of opinion which have for many years impeded our efforts to strengthen American education."

He was referring, apparently, to the Federal school aid bills that have failed to pass in many recent sessions of Congress.

Mr. Folsom also told Senator Fulbright that the principal responsibility for the final form of the report on Soviet education had rested with a Soviet affairs specialist — "one who holds the Ph. D. degree in Comparative Education, with a doctoral dissertation on Soviet Education, who speaks and writes Russian." She is Frederika M. Tandler.

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Dr. Caldwell also said today that no top official of the Office of Education had visited Soviet Russia. However, Lyudmila Dubrovina, the Soviet Deputy Minister of Education, visited the United States Office of Education in the spring of 1956. She came here from the United Nations, to which she had been assigned.